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Title of the Thesis –

Savitri : An inward Odyssey of Sri Aurobindo
(A Critical and comprchensive study of Savitri)

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(A critical and comprehensive study of *Savitri*)

Introduction : Purpose of Research

Man is basically a spiritual being. But he is often engaged in a pursuit of external things which can only accumulate some necessities of life but fail to give satisfaction. The inner man raises his demands. The only solution lies in turning inwards. This will help in realizing the true self and meaning of life. Our great ancestors and sages, saints and philosophers have shown the way which we must emulate and then find our own. One such philosopher Saint is Sri Aurobindo.

Through his literary excellence Sri Aurobindo is able to attain the uttermost expression of the essence – the central significance of Man's life on the earth. *Savitri* which embodies this highest expression, is his magnum opus. It can and should be studied as a quest for this expression, sublimity of the subject: the triumph of life over death – as the triumph of luminous Truth over nescience. But more than matter – the manner : more than the usual thematic study – the artistic excellence of Sri Aurobindo : his epic grandeur and epic style; his method; his vision-making- periods – (long complex sentences) enshrining life giving images, the archetypes of myths and symbols which enable him to attain the supramental and reveal the highest evolution through the deepest involution – are aimed at as the main objective of this study.

The stress is not on the individual evolution but on the transformation of complete mankind, such as evolution in which involution plays an equally important role – the descendency of divine and the ascendancy of the human.

A brief review of the work already done in the field –

Sri Aurobindo stands out among the chiseled and refined writers of the world, who have realized their soul. He fascinates and attracts the attention. All feel constantly inspired by his writings. He is the upholder of the great theistic tradition of India, for which our country is so well – known. Innumerable books, articles, dissertations and thesis have been written on the life and works of Sri Aurobindo. The notable source of Sri Aurobindo's works comes from articles and supplements published by the Sri Aurobindo ashram in Pondicherry.

A few noteworthy studies on Sri Aurobindo are as follows –

1. Asoke K. Ganguli Sri Aurobindo's *Savitri* An Adventure of consciousness
2. Atulindra Nath Chaturvidi Sri Aurobindo The Spiritual Revolutionary
3. KRS lyengar " Dawn to Greater Dawn" In Indian writing in English Sri Aurobindo.
4. M.V. Nadkarni A Brief Introduction Savitri.
5. A.B. Purani Lectures on Savitri Life of Sri Aurobindo, Sri Aurobindo Savitri An Approach and a study.
6. K.D. Sethna Sri Aurobindo the Poet.

Some study note books, news letters and letters on Savitri and the poet are also available.

While the works of A.N. Chaturvedi and Sethna, deal with Aurobindo the poet, the studies of Purani, Nadkarni, Gunguli and lyengar concentrate on *Savitri*.

However, none of the above mentioned books deals with the inner aspect of *Savitri* and the reality of the inward exploration which helps man in this spiritual progress. This humble effort of mine is to lay down the attention and to give a stress on complete transformation of mankind.

Noteworthy contribution in the field of the proposed work –

To select noteworthy contributions in this particular area is difficult. Still a few are listed here -

1. Dr. Santanu Basak : Concept of Future Poetry and Sri Aurobindo

   Raipur (C.G.)

2. Sakshi Suri : A critical study of Sri Aurobindo's *Savitri* "A dissertation"

3. Kalpana Bidwaikar : Transformation of Consciousness in *Savitri*.

It is gratifying to note that Sri Aurobindo has inspired so many and so varied thoughts and ideas of the inward aspects of the *Savitri*. But one can easily see that the metaphysical reality is a subject that has not been death with at length in any of the above mentioned works. Hence such an attempt as would be done in the proposed study is justified.

Proposed methodology during the tenure of the research work –

During the course of the study, it is proposed to study the works of Sri Aurobindo in detail from all possible sources, study centers and libraries.

The study material will be obtained from the famous libraries like Sri Aurobindo Ashram at Pondicherry, SCILET Madurai, IACIS Indo American Centre for International studies (Hyderabad), C.I.E.F.L. Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages Hyderabad, British Council Library, University libraries etc. For collecting relevant material internets' advantage will be taken.

The thesis writing will be scrupulously done strictly in accordance with the latest sixth or seventh editions of MLA Handbook For Writers Of Research Papers. By Joseph Gibaldi, which

ensure the thesis to be of internationally acceptable standard in format. The research will follow the interpretative and analytical method. The approach would be qualitative and will be based on insights and Impressions.

Expected outcome of the proposed work –

While the proposed thesis, making a truth – oriented approach in exploring the inward quest of Sri Aurobindo, aims at establishing his divine achievements through cohesive, systematic study backed by ample investigation and research, it intends to register and highlight his poetic methods which proclaim his true literary genius. The most expected outcome is that the doctoral will be able to point out and prove those poetic means, his periods, images, analogies symbols etc, which enable him to attain the acme of ultimate human expression. Since the work aims at an all round estimation of Sri Aurobindo as a poet of supernal consciousness the work enable any reader/mankind to probe into his concept of life Divine on the one hand and explore the possibilities of 'Future Poetry' on the other. By doing so one can learn to expand his vision, replacing thought with super thought. It is also expected that this humble endeavour will sharpen critical sensibilities and enrich experiences.

The thesis aims to proceed under following heads:

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

Sri Aurobindo was a man of versatile genius and achievements. He was a rishi, the propounder of 'Integral yoga', the prophet of the Life Divine, the fiery revolutionary and

nationalist, the illustrious scholar and interpreter of the Vedas, the matchless teacher, the poet, dramatist, critic and prose writer par excellence. Many of his contemporaries saw in him the promise of the superman.

Sri Aurobindo was a great nationalist leader and philosopher whose contribution to revival of spiritual and mystical forces in human life is monumental.

The present chapter would examine Aurobindo the man and Aurobindo the creative writer and see the relationship between the two aspects of his personality.

CHAPTER 2

An Invocation and an Awakening

That *Savitri* is no ordinary epic but a spiritual odyssey, an inner quest in the region of the divine, unearthing its earthly manifestation, is at once suggested by the grand opening of the cosmic drama.

The chapter will describe the Asuric power being countered, mastered, and transformed only by the means of spiritual guidance, as given in the first three books of '*Savitri*'. *Savitri* the protagonist invades the bewildering darkness of Night and the Twilight state of uncertainty and emerges into the clear light of the Day. Such is the total transformation- the present effect of the divine that *Savitri* an ordinary girl is apotheosized into an immortal being attaining super human stature. The human soul overcomes the limitation caused by the ignorance and the obscurities and contradictions of mental life. With the supreme gift of grace, it spearheads the evolutionary advance.

CHAPTER 3

Quest towards Fulfilment

How the supreme consummation is attained, we learn from, this chapter We come to know the human side of the story, the promise which was made to Aswapathy, the fulfilment he achieved of his being. In this chapter we propose to deal with Aswapathy's penance, his tapsaya. Aswapathy's Yoga which after self- fulfilment and individual victory, leads to the universal realization of a new creation.

Maintaining throughout his status as the witness self with his omnipotence of disinterestedness, Aswapathy, sees the vision of Truth, in which "Existence is a divine experiment" and Cosmos is soul's opportunity."

He sees in his vision that only by bringing down a higher power than of the mind, can man realize his divine destiny.

But this realization cannot be done by man alone; a higher power must come down or must be brought down. The effort to bring down such a power can only be done by 'an inward turn' in man. No external methods would succeed. The quest or the journey towards the fulfilment of the divine light is seen by Aswapathy. The yoga of Aswapathy and that of *Savitri* need not be thought of as opposed to each other, though, doubtless, a difference in the stress of the Yogic movement is seen in both, Infact, the two together can be seen as one integral movement. *Savitri*'s is the Yoga of Transformation, and similarly, Aswapathy's Yoga attains the calls of psycho – spiritual.

CHAPTER 4

Transformation of Consciousness

This chapter will be an attempt to analyse the problem of impending Death and Hope of life through *Savitri*'s struggle with Yama for the soul of Satayavan, as presented in part III. In *Savitri* ordeal leads to transformation of life and creates Heaven on Earth. *Savitri* achieves

release as well as divine blessing. Sri Aurobindo as a poet and seer is categorically certain about his mission; he directs the power and movement of the Integral yoga and poetry. He puts a high responsibility on the poetry of future: that of remolding this world of ignorance, falsehood, and mortality, to hew the ways of immortality by transformation of consciousness. Savitri as a harbinger of that meaningful poetry is helpful towards achieving the divine fulfillment upon earth. It must turn towards expressing the new creation which the Yogic vision of the poet sees and which can be created by transformation.

But, unless the poet himself has attained realization and experienced the highest plane of consciousness his poetry will fall short of attaining its highest objective.

CHAPTER 5

Art of Poetry in *Savitri*

Sri Aurobindo has a simple and lyrical form of writing. He as a poet, craftsman, employs, vivid symbols and images, suggestive and picturesque diction, and uses blank – verse and quantitative metres. This will be examined under Aurobindo's art of poetry.

CHAPTER 6

Conclusion

Throughout his life career as a philosopher- poet, dramatist and writer, Aurobindo remained a saintly figure in life and literature. He is admired for his prophetic insight, for his ideas and unique poetic style. It is no exaggeration to say that with the publication of *Savitri* his

reputation leads to new heights. He is regarded as a major poet, because of his language, style and techniques. In these spheres he shows unrestrictive talents.

It is proposed to conclude that his Savitri poetically realized the highest literary philosophical, worth of existence, and attempts to broaden man's vision toward self – realization, and encompasses the Absolute.

It will sum up how the epic not only upholds the poet's spiritual experiences but also attempts at remoulding and transforming the very mind, the life and body of man.

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